

EDITORIAL

Broken promises

Administrative promises are why many of us decided to enroll at ECSU. Whether it was lab-top computers in our dorm rooms, scholarships, a fast-food restaurant on the campus or a new television station--we came to this school hoping that our educational and recreational needs would be met. Unfortunately, many students have been disappointed to find that inducements to come here turned out to constitute false advertisement. These broken promises have been a factor in student decisions to change majors; take out loans, or--the saddest result of all--withdraw or transfer from the school.

Many juniors and seniors who had planned to pursue a career in the media profession had ambitions of "getting their feet wet" in the world of broadcast media. A key aspect of this dream was the new television station that recruiters said would be available when they arrived on campus. That enthusiasm was dampened when students arrived to discover there was no TV station. Year after year, students were told that the station would be up and running--year after year, a functional station failed to appear.

Many students in the Incentive Scholarship Program came here believing they had full scholarships to cover all four years' expenses. Recruiters advised them of the glittering opportunity they would miss by refusing a scholarship that would let them attend college without financial worry.

One incentive scholar came here believing her financial status was the last thing she needed to worry about. Her expectations were dashed the day before final exams her first semester. When she went to the registrar's office to see if she needed an exam permit, she was shocked to discover she owed about \$200--which had to be paid that day. Her efforts to pay off this unexpected debt--with loans and family assistance--left her feeling resentful and disillusioned.

While some students struggled to pay "hidden" educational expenses that officials failed to mention, others students eagerly anticipated the construction of the Fine Arts Building. Once again students were disappointed. Recruiters told one student that the building would be in use in the Fall of 1994--one reason why she decided to attend ECSU.

Although the Fine Arts Building now appears to be on track, it will not help those students interested in drama and theater arts who came here expecting to benefit from it.

While we do not hold the current administration liable for broken promises made in the past, we want to emphasize that it's important to keep the values of honesty and openness in mind when recruiting students. A straightforward approach to recruitment and advising will minimize disappointments down the road. If we are to continue growing and prospering, all students must be treated with candor and fairness.

Elizabeth City State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate degrees.

THE COMPASS

EditorsAngela Burrus, Tiffany Newell
Chief photographer Franklin G. Scott, Jr.
Sports Editor Al Joyner
Copy Editor Samantha Marshall
New Notes Editors..... Samantha Marshall, Kimberly Hines
Poetry Editor Kimberly Hines
Graphics Consultant Diane Patterson
Staff writers: Chenay Beamon, Kimberly Hines, Frances Hughes, Troy Lewter, Damon Lynn, Cindy Smith, Dwayne Pope, Donald Perkins, Gary Walton.

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THE COMPASS welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be sent to ECSU Box 815, Elizabeth City, NC 27909. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number. They may be edited for length, clarity, and taste, as well as accuracy and grammar. Because of limited space, not all letters can be published.

UNC-System leader promises compliance

To The Editor:

For more than 25 years The University of North Carolina has worked to overcome the effects of past racial segregation in our public system of higher education. With consistent and sustained efforts we have sought to make educational opportunities available to as many citizens as possible, regardless of race or sex or religion or economic circumstances or social conditions or family background. We have emphasized that every one of the University's sixteen constituent institutions is open and available to applicants on a nondiscriminatory basis.

The results of those efforts have been truly remarkable. In the last 25 years, the university-wide enrollment of black students increased 114 percent. Meanwhile, the enrollment of women increased by 115 percent, the enrollment of Native Americans by 144 percent, and the proportion of undergraduates age 25 or older by 47 percent.

In terms of increased racial integration of student populations, black student presence now approaches 10 percent of the ten historically white institutions, and white student presence is more than 15 percent at the five historically black institutions.

We are intensely proud of those accomplishments, which long since dispelled any question about the University's commitment to equal educational opportunity. The affirmative outreach that has produced these results has been entirely appropriate morally, legally, and as a matter of sound public policy.

We do recognize that the legal landscape within which we are required to

Tired of cold water

To The Editor:

The students living in the New Women's Residence Hall have constantly had problems with no hot water. I really do not like the fact that we have to pay an extra \$125 to shower in another dorm.

We understand that the water may be cold sometimes but not every day and night. The past week, Mr. Kenneth Roberts of Housing told the students that due to the water problems we're having, Mitchell Lewis and Bias Hall are free for us to shower. My concern is that no one wants to walk across campus in the cold to another dorm to take a shower with a possibility that we might get sick. It is just an inconvenience to us.

I believe that the Housing Office should find a way to satisfy the students in the New Women's Dorm. Although we pay more to stay on campus, we seem to be the only dorm experiencing these problems.

Shronda Smith

LETTERS

address our objectives is constantly evolving; although some requirements are clear, other important questions await definite resolution by the courts.

As responsible administrators we must regularly and carefully reassess our own policies and practices to be sure that we are in compliance with established legal mandates. At my request, all our campuses are engaged now in just such a reassessment. If we find that any of our practices are legally inappropriate, we will change them. We intend to ensure that our house is well in order.

The reassessment does not mean that the University is retreating from or abandoning its long-standing basic objectives of welcoming applicants on a nondiscriminatory basis and striving to achieve broadly diverse elements. The University is committed to using proper and effective means of sustaining and extending those accomplishments.

Indeed, if North Carolina is to achieve its goals of future economic and social vitality, the University must reach out to the schools, community colleges and our citizens to continue the progress of improved college going rates throughout the state.

We believe that is the right course. It is also the appropriate course for the University founded more than two centuries ago to extend the benefits of higher education beyond the ranks of the privileged.

Molly Corbett Broad, President
 The University of North Carolina System

POETRY

I Caught A Star

i caught a star last night
 i had to let it go, 'cause it just
 ain't right to try and cage the light
 that shines in your eyes
 and keeps me warm when
 summer dies
 then winter comes to provoke my
 cries of pain
 when loneliness leaves a stain
 that can't be washed away in the
 rain
 it remains forever
 can't be faded by harsh weather
 only when we're finally together
 will it go away
 but for now i'll remember
 yesterday
 when the life force lay
 in the palm of my hand
 and dream of the day when i can
 stand
 next to you in the sand
 and promise my love for eternity
 praying that you won't ever turn
 away from me

Freda Garland